***Motion 154.***

The following motion was not made:

*Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI:*

*154. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,679 for the Photograph Department by Rs. 420.*

PRESIDENT: I put to the vote of the House the Demand for Rs. 52,000 under XX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

The motion was carried and the grant made.

**Demand XXI Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.**

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 53,000 under Demand XXI—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—embracing the following departments, *viz.*, the Public Library, the Archaeological Department, the Department for the Preservation of Oriental Literature, Establishment under the Glanders and Farcy Regulation, the Co-operative Department, the Public Lecture Committee the office of the Controller of Patents and Designs and the Economic Development Board.

PRESIDENT: May I take it that motions Nos. 155 to 157 are identical?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I cannot say exactly that they are identical.

***Motion 155.***

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

155. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,800 for the Public Library by Rs. 1,500.

Sir, it may seem rather curious that I should move for a reduction from the grant to an educational institution like the Public Library. But my excuse is that the benefits of this library are reaped only by a very small class of people and that they do not reach the masses. The books in the library are all in English and they are used by the residents of Trivandrum alone. The population of the town of Trivandrum is only 65,000 or 70,000.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that you are right in saying that the books in the Public Library are exclusively in English.

MR. L. C. HODGSON: There are very many sections of books. There are Tamil books, there are Sanskrit books and there are Malayalam books.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR: May I mention that, during the last two or three years, considerable additions have been made in books, especially in the Indian languages?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Most of the books are in English. I suppose that, of the population of Trivandrum which, as I said, was about 70,000, the number of English-knowing people who actually make use of the Library is very small. From the Administration Report for 1096, we find that the number of members was 116, the number of eight-anna subscribers 55, and the



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[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar:]

number of four-anna subscribers 191, thus making a total of 362. The number of readers in 1095 was 219 and it fell suddenly to 103 in 1096, which shows that very few people other than members and subscribers make use of the Library. The expenditure upon this institution in 1096 was Rs. 10,737, while the income from it was only Rs. 2,730, so that the Government incurred a net expenditure of Rs. 8,007 in that year. If we divide it among the subscribers and members whose number is 362, we get an average net expenditure of Rs. 22 per head of subscribers and members. This, I submit, is a very large amount to be invested for the benefit of the subscribers and members who alone use the Library. As I have already said, the readers are few in number. For the students we have got a properly equipped library in the college; and for the use of the members of this Council, it would appear that Government are organising a well-equipped library, so that the number of people whom the benefits of the library can reach is very small. Hence I submit that the expenditure of Rs. 8,000 upon this Library is excessive. The Library should be made self-supporting, if possible. If necessary, Government may make a grant of Rs. 2,000. The saving effected may be utilised for financing village libraries which would be of greater use to the masses than this central library in Trivandrum. With these words, I beg to move that the allotment be reduced by Rs. 1,500.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, the Public Library had been in receipt of a grant of Rs. 5,000 per annum in pre-war years, for the purchase of books and periodicals alone. Since the beginning of of the war, that allotment has to some extent been curtailed owing to financial stringency, and the present grant for the purchase of books and periodicals is only Rs. 4,000 per annum. As the House is well aware, the cost of books has considerably risen of late, while the demand from the public for standard and up-to-date books has become increasingly pressing. Out of Rs. 4,000 allotted for the purchase of books and periodicals, only a sum of Rs. 1,500 is utilised for the purchase of periodicals, while the balance of Rs. 2,500 is applied towards the purchase of books. That the Library is growing in popularity will be seen from the following statement.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know how much of Rs. 2,500 is used for purchasing novels alone?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: I shall come to it presently.

| *Year* | *1094* | *1095* | *1096* | *1097* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Members | 87 | 95 | 116 | 140 (up-to-date) |
| Subscribers | 172 | 199 | 246 | 248 |
| Receipts | Rs. 2,132 | Rs. 2,238 | Rs. 2,728 | Rs. 3,300 |

It will be seen from this statement that the number of members in 1094 was 87. It has now risen to 140. The number of subscribers has risen from 172 in 1094 to 248 in 1097. The number of volumes in

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stock at the beginning of 1088 was 18,197. It is now 23,464. The number of novels purchased for the Library has been steadily decreasing. Prior to the war, a large portion of the allotment sanctioned for the purchase of books was being utilised for the purchase of novels. Nowadays, as the members will see from a perusal of the annual report for the Library, the percentage of novels taken out of the Library for reading is perceptibly decreasing. That percentage was 62 in 1094, 55 in 1095, and 53 in 1096. There is a growing taste in the reading public of Trivandrum for books other than novels. The Library authorities have appreciated this and they are now ordering more books on other subjects than novels.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know how many out of these 23,000 volumes are novels?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The vast majority of the books in the Library are not novels. Novels are kept in a single room outside the main hall downstairs, while the hall itself is stocked with a vast variety of books on all departments of knowledge. Out of the total allotment for books in 1095, novels were purchased only for Rs. 663, while the value of the other classes of books purchased was Rs. 2,400. In 1096, novels to the value of Rs. 470 were purchased and other books to the value of Rs. 2,504. In 1097 the value of novels purchased so far is Rs. 584 and of other books Rs. 1,806. In 1095, 270 volumes of fiction and 643 volumes on other subjects were added to the Library. In 1096 163 volumes of fiction and 500 volumes on other subjects were added, while the corresponding figures for 1097 up to date are 113 and 232 respectively. 233 Malayalam and 199 Tamil books have been added to the Library in recent years. The Library Committee and its distinguished President, Dewan Bahadur A. Govinda Pillai, are, I know, very anxious to add as many books, in Malayalam and Tamil, and also in Sanskrit, as possible, to the Library. It seems to me that, if the grant on account of this extremely useful institution is to be interfered with at all, it should be not in the direction of curtailment, but possibly in the direction of enhancement.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: May I know if there are vernacular newspapers and magazines there?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Several standard vernacular magazines and newspapers are purchased and placed both in the members' room and in the general reading room. Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai referred to the fact that in 1096 the number of readers went down from the figure in 1095. This is not exactly correct. The fact is that, formerly, a reader's ticket had to be issued by the Secretary to enable one to go to the general reading room. In 1096, that rule was changed by the Library authorities, with the result that now any person who is desirous of going and reading in the general reading room is permitted to do so after signing his name in a register-book kept downstairs for the purpose.

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[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

RAO BAHADUR. K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Has he to pay anything for the purpose?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Absolutely nothing. The result is that, while the number of those holding the readers' ticket has decreased, the number of those actually using the reading room has vastly increased.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Am I to understand that the figures in the Adminstration Report are wrong?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: These figures relate only to those who are in possession of readers' tickets. That is different from the actual number of persons who actually make use of the reading room.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Why can not that number be also ascertained and included in the Administration Report?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: That will be done in future. Thus, as a matter of fact, there is absolutely no decrease in the number of persons who use the general reading room. On the other hand, there has been a considerable increase in their number.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR: May I correct a misapprehension?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar is not in order. He will have his chance afterwards. He is not speaking now. Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar is in possession of the House.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR: The correction that I want to make is that the readers' ticket is discontinued. They are now permitting anybody with a respectable appearance to go and read.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: That was just what I was saying.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: How many readers have there been from the general public on an average during the last year?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: If the member wishes, I shall obtain the information and furnish it to him. I am not in possession of the statistics now, because almost anybody can go and read after signing his name in the book referred to.

One other point referred to by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai was that the Library was being utilised only by the people of Trivandrum. It would, no doubt, be better if some arrangement could be made by which it would be possible for mofussil gentlemen also to make use of the Library.

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MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I said that the grant to the Library should be reduced and the saving given to the village libraries.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: As for that matter, I may say that, as a matter of fact, there *is* an allotment for encouraging village libraries and that several village libraries *are* receiving grants-in-aid out of this allotment in the educational budget. There is also a scheme which Professor Chandrasekharan, the present Honorary Secretary, has promised to submit, under which he proposes to make the benefit of the library available to mofussil readers also. That scheme is not yet before the Government, and, when it is received, I need hardly say that it will receive due consideration.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: The questions asked by some of the members lead one to think that the Public Library is a *terra incognita* to them. The want of information regarding the number of readers who have visited the Library does not enable us to discuss the matter in all its details. Evidently, the grandeur of the building and its location keep the general public out of the Library, and it is mostly the higher folks who are subscribers and who visit it. The student population also seems not to take full advantage of it. Probably, when the new college hostel is completed, the students will be greatly benefited owing to its proximity to the Library. A Library is an educating and moralising medium, and should be so located as to be accessible to all. A branch library, if located in Chalai or some other important centre, will be very useful to the general public. Sensational novels which may have a demoralising effect on young minds should not find a place in a public library. As suggested by Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai, not only should greater facilities be afforded to the reading public to make the best use of the Trivandrum Library, but libraries on a small scale should be opened in all the important centres in the State.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: Sir, one of the objects Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai apparently had in making the motion—if I have not misunderstood him—is that the money allotted should be utilised for encouraging village libraries. I think that idea is very laudable. But I also feel that that should be done without sacrificing the interests of the Trivandrum Public Library, just as, though there are primary schools spread all over the country, we do not grudge the money for His Highness the Maha Raja's College at Trivandrum as a first grade institution. Similarly, such a library ought to be maintained without in any way detracting from the desire for the movement for starting village libraries. Such libraries exist and are accepted in all civilised countries as a necessity. In Madras we have the Connemara and other libraries. Though the number of persons using our library may not be very large, the country should provide for the needs not only of the masses, but also of the selected few who may be scholars and students and who may not be able to provide themselves with all the books they require out of their own pockets. It is a very useful institution, and I shall be very sorry if, as a result of any action of the Government in this matter, its usefulness is curtailed.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

I am a moffusil member making good use of it. I have been taking away 10 or 12 books at a time. There are other moffussil members also using the Library. I must also testify to the fact that the present Secretary, Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan, is trying to extend the usefulness of the Library in all directions. He is inducing members to suggest the names of new books and no effort is spared to make it a really useful institution.

As regards the complaint that there are more novels than other books, I must say that I was also under that impression. But I think it is an erroneous impression. I have not counted the number of novels—but from the space covered by the novels as well as by other classes of literature, I am clearly of opinion that the number of books on other subjects is far greater than that of novels. I, therefore, would suggest that, as far as possible, more funds might be placed at the disposal of the Library authorities, so that its benefits may be extended.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I regret very much that I am not able to agree with Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai in his motion for reduction. The Trivandrum Public Library is one of the magnificient institutions of the State and I consider that any reduction in the allotment under 'purchase of books' would materially affect the prestige and also the usefulness of the Library.

As for the suggestion regarding village libraries, I must say that it deserves serious consideration. But I should think that municipalities can very easily put forth their efforts in organising municipal libraries, and that Government ought to give them grants and other facilities.

It is consoling to find that in the Trivandrum Library the expenditure on account of books on fiction is going down; but at the same time I must state that the number of volumes, especially, of standard, up-to-date books on scientific, economic and similar departments is not at all satisfactory. I think that there is ample scope for improvement in that line. It is very desirable that as much money as possible should be spent in getting down up-to-date standard books on such subjects instead of season novels of ephemeral interest.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I am of opinion that the grant for the Public Library should be increased consistently with the state of our finances. A good lot of money has been spent in erecting the Public Library buildings. Although the cost was a little too high, that building adds to the architectural beauty of Trivandrum. Brick and mortar seem to have had a peculiar fascination for the Government. But that is a matter over which we have no control at present; so, let us not wail over past mistakes.

Much has been said about the purchase of English books. I am in favour of more English books being purchased. Comparisons between the number of English books and that of Tamil and Malayalam

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books are not always profitable, because for a few rupees all the Malayalam books in the world can be purchased. (*Laughter.*) The case of Tamil is somewhat different. But, for a long time to come, a larger amount of money should necessarily be devoted to the buying of English books than the amount appropriated to the purchase of Tamil, Sanskrit and Malayalam books to be kept in the Library. I should like to see that liberal additions are made to the collection of vernacular books also.

I have heard a good deal against the purchase of novels. I do not know why novels should be prescribed. I am not a great reader of novels; but I look back with pleasure on the instruction that I have derived from reading a few standard novels. But there are novels and novels, and I would say that good novels alone must find a place in the Library. I cannot think of a library without the works of Conan Doyle, Sir Walter Scott, Dickens and George Eliot.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I never suggested that novels should not be purchased. Nobody ever suggested that.

MR. L. C. HODGSON: When the Public Library took over the whole of the People's Library, the latter had books on light literature. There was an understanding, I believe, when the People's Library was taken over, that a certain portion of the books purchased every year thereafter must be books on fiction.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: What I would object to, however, is the purchase of books on sexual science and kindred subjects. I learn that there are books of that kind now kept in the Library and lent to students and other young men. Such books, when put into the hands of these young men, will lead to unpleasant consequences. Of course, professional men may have books of this description; but they should not be exhibited in a public library of this kind.

As to Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar's statement, on the one side, that the number of readers in the Library is increasing, and the statement, on the other side, that it is decreasing, I have to observe that it should be the effort of the authorities to give facilities to as many people as possible to use the library. Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar has said that a man has to sign his name before he is admitted and allowed to read. I think that this indenture system should be abolished. There are peons in the library and the ordinary criminal law is enough to punish any possible offender. If these peons will do their work and if the librarian is prepared to control the work of his subordinates, I am certain that there would be absolutely no theft or mischief. I would earnestly plead for the abolition of this kind of *quasi*-indenture system. Anybody who, to all appearance, is a respectable man should be allowed to read in the general reading room.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: What other method would Mr. Velu Pillai suggest for ascertaining the number of people who read in the Library?

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Every man who wants to read must be allowed to read.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: You must have statistics.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I do not know why that should be collected with such clumsy safeguards. Statistics of this nature are useful only for purposes of filling up the interstices of the Administration Reports and for indulging in exercises of self-laudation. There is no record to show how many people go to the beach. (*Laughter.*) It is one of the prime rights of the subjects to use the Library; and a peon may note down the information, when people are going in, exactly as is being done in the Museum, if it is thought that their number should be ascertained. I do not see why a man should be made to sign his name as if, without this indenture system, he might walk away with books or articles of furniture.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Sir, I move that the question be now put.

The motion for closure fell through for want of support.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I shall add a few words, for there is a motion tabled in my name also. What I wish to say in this connection is in support of the Public Library. The Library, as it is now run, I fear, is not taken advantage of by as many people as probably would have been the case, had the arrangements been otherwise. With respect to the contention whether the use of the Library is on the increase or decrease, there is good reason to believe that it is being utilised more and more. From the Administration Report itself, we see that the number of books lent out in the year 1096 came to 13,269, against 8,993 in 1095. This is certainly an indication of the Library being put to use more and more by the reading public of Trivandrum. Further, it is not the question of actual measurement of the use that the Public Library is being put to that is relevant to the present issue. Government can only provide the necessary arrangement by establishing a proper library for the use of the town, and it should be left to the people to see whether they take advantage of it or not. That is a different question altogether. For the reading section of the public, there must be provision in a library and that provision is there. With respect to the further utilisation of the Library, I have got a few suggestions to make. First, the entrance fee of Rs. 10 and the monthly fee of Rs. 2 now prescribed for a member evidently appear to be stringent in the nature of the financial stringency now prevailing. I have heard certain friends telling me that, if the authorities would revise the scale of fees, there would be many more people to get themselves enrolled as members of the Library. It is the membership that is the attractive portion of it. So far as the readers are concerned, they are not allowed even to read the daily newspapers on the day they are received.

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MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Some newspapers are placed in the general reading room also on the day they are received.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: This is perhaps under some arrangement. I suppose that the eight-anna subscribers are allowed to take only two books and the four-anna subscribers only one book. So far as the mofussil subscribers and members are concerned, their situation also requires some sympathetic consideration. Some of us, in consideration of the subscription for membership, resort to getting ourselves reduced to the condition of eight-anna or four-anna subscribers when we leave Trivandrum and revive the membership when we are again in the town. If there is a medium course for us, we shall continue to be members right through, without elevating and depressing ourselves in that fashion. Another point which I wish to suggest for consideration is with respect to the Committee which controls the Library. With the widening of the scope for membership, the members themselves must be allowed to make certain nominations to the Committee. The readers may also be allowed to elect their representative on the Committee. All the discussion about the question of fiction preponderating arose, I fear, because of an inclination on the part some members to take to fiction-reading and some counter-current in certain quarters to eschew the same in favour of substantial books. At any rate, the necessity of the Library cannot be ignored and it therefore requires support. All that I am pointing out is that the scope of its utility has to be widened.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: I wish to add one word in this connection. I should be the last person to make any cut in an institution like the Public Library. It has been said by my friend, Mr. Hodgson, that it was originally the People's Library and that it has been developed into a Public Library, but so far as I have been able to know, one defect that I have noticed in the existing system is that it is more patrician in character than plebian. So, what I would submit is that, in order to keep the original idea, it should be made more popular; that is to say, the members' privileges should be reduced to a little extent. One method has been suggested by my friend, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, by way of reduction of fees. Another thing we find is that we have provision made for readers and students making use of the journals, books, etc., in the Library, but the books, journals, etc., that they get are stale ones. They do not get any recent publications. So I think it would be advisable to make the general reading room also a little more up-to-date. I would also submit for the consideration of the Council that it would be advisable to make some provision for the respectable visitors who come to the town to make use of the room reserved for the members.

MR. L. C. HODGSON: In the constitution of the Public Library, there is a provision for meeting Mr. Nidiry's suggestion. According to that provision, the public of the town of Trivandrum have a share in the administration of the Public Library.



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[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR: Mr. President, I should like to say a few words in regard to the motion brought forward by Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai. As regards the specific suggestions made by the members on the other side, in the course of the discussion, for the improvement of the Public Library, I would say that they are matters for the consideration, in the *first* instance, of the Managing Committee of the Library, and *then* of the Government. I am not concerned now and here, to say anything in regard to the advisability of adopting some or all of those suggestions. Also, it is not open to me, as a member of the Managing Committee of the Library, to say anything in regard to matters which may subsequently come up before me and the other members of the Committee.

I understood Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai's point to be something like this. He thinks that the Library does not serve as large a section of the people of the State as it might do, and that, as far as Trivandrum is concerned, there are alternative resources for the reading public. It is also suggested that, even if the activities of the Public Library are curtailed, there are *other* libraries in the capital, for example, the libraries attached to the three colleges and the Educational Bureau, which may be availed of by Trivandrum readers. In regard to this, I may say at once that a considerable number of persons now using the Public Library are members of educational institutions, as students or as teachers, and that the Library is, therefore, really a valuable auxiliary to the libraries of a more technical and specialised character, which are available to them in their respective colleges. By a recent order of the Government, designed to enforce economy and avoid unnecessary duplication, His Highness the Maha Raja's College and the Public Library are asked to act in consultation with each other, when purchasing new books for their respective institutions. The result, therefore, is that I am obliged, in the case of my senior students and particularly the students of the Honors classes, to insist on their becoming subscribers to the Public Library, because there are very many instances in which those students will not be able to get in the College the necessary literature for their advanced studies. There is also an old provision, for the sanction of which I had originally moved, by which books in the Public Library are borrowed by my colleagues in the College for purposes of reference. This sanction is liberally used by us. All this will show that these two institutions, instead of being alternatives or rivals, are really complementary, and that it cannot be deemed possible to close the one or to restrict its scope without restricting the scope for reading in Trivandram. May I also point out that the libraries of the college are not open, and cannot be open, to the general public?

The other suggestion of Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai is, as I understood it, that there is a great deal of scope for the creation of mofussil libraries, and that such libraries may be developed in preference to the Public Library. I shall put the proposal on a higher plane, as I have great sympathy with this idea of mofussil libraries. I say, this is not the way

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to help them. Anybody who has been in the mofussil would realise that there is great scope there for starting such libraries. The proper way to bring about the creation of such libraries is, however, for the members on the other side to exercise the right they have of moving a resolution on the subject, recommending help to create such collections, and not to come forward and suggest that a library which has been going on for a long time and doing very useful work, should have its activities curtailed, in order that libraries may rise in out-stations.

May I say in this connection, Sir, that the suggestion made by Mr. Paramesvarn Pillai for the reduction of Rs. 1,500, which comes to nearly 40 per cent. of the budgeted expenditure of the Library on books and periodicals, would succeed in taking away a very large slice indeed from what will be available for the purchase of books and periodicals for the Library? In the old days, when the book allotment was Rs. 5,000, we had not to subscribe for as many periodicals, including daily papers, as we now have to go in for. We had not *then* such a rush of visitors as we now have, in our reading rooms. The number of newspapers subscribed for and their cost have risen. We are now obliged to get down several papers in duplicate. The result is that the balance available for the purchase of books has been getting smaller and smaller, while the abnormally high cost of books since the war has made it impossible for us to buy *half* as many books as we used to do five years ago, much less to keep pace with the annual increase in the number of our members and the corresponding growth in the demand for books. So much has been said in regard to increase in the number of members and readers, that I may point out that there has *not* been a corresponding and progressive increase in the number of volumes provided for such members, and that thereby the attraction of the Library is not kept up.

Something has been said in regard to the number of volumes on fiction that we go in for. I should like to say that we have not now perhaps more than 2,500 books which may come under this head, and that too in a *big* library like ours, with about 25,000 volumes. Many of these were received from our predecessor, the People's Library. A large number of these are also standard literature. Again, may I say that many persons, who are members or subscribers, are so, not only in order that they might alone use the Library, but in order that the members of their families might also have access to attractive reading matter there. When the Committee began, some years ago, to restrict the increase in the number of novels, there was a loud outcry from this class. We cannot determine beforehand what percentage of the annual expenditure should alone be devoted to novels. We made the attempt some years ago, but the restriction was then made in the interests of novel-readers and not in those of the readers of more serious works. Speaking for myself, while I have no dislike of novels, and am not inclined to cut down the expenditure on them, so long as there is a public demand for them, I should like to see more money spent than now on more serious works. But this is very difficult on account of the increased cost of books, the grant being fixed on the old scale.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai said that the net cost on books and periodicals was about Rs. 8,000. I do not know how he arrived at this figure. The amount represents the net expenditure on the Library, including equipment and establishment. It does not make allowance, as it should, for the annual additions made to our stock in books and equipment. Strictly speaking, the cost of these should be deducted from any estimate of the net cost arrived at, as by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai. Now, I ask whether, after all, an expenditure of even Rs. 8,000 a year is excessive for a Library which serves so vital a public need. Consider what is spent on similar libraries in other Indian States, or in the Presidency towns. If you do so, it will surely be recognised that all this expenditure is willingly incurred, because of the conviction of the value of public libraries, and of the need to promote and not retard their development.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

***Motion* 156.**

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

156. To reduce the allotment of Rs 10,800 for the Public Library by Rs. 400.

Before I make this motion, I associate myself with the suggestion of Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai to add to the usefulness of the Public Library system by establishing new libraries in the mofussil and by doing such other things as will make them really efficient. I also wish, in relation to the previous motion, to state that it was not my purpose to say that fiction should have precedence over serious literature. All that I wanted to emphasise was that fiction should not be neglected.

It is with regard to the management of the Public Library that I wish to say a few words. There is a Secretary to the Public Library who is given a local allowance of Rs. 400 per annum. I am against this system of local allowances, and I support my conclusions on various reasons. In the first place, an officer like a Professor, who has himself a good deal of work both inside the college and outside it,—one who has to prepare his lessons at very great trouble—such a man should not be saddled with any additional duties. When, in dealing with the problems of the Educational Department, we on this side of the House had occasion to remark that Professors had not enough work to do, the members on the other side were very loud in their protests. When I find that the onerous responsiblity of the Library Secretary is also given to a Professor, I am really at a difficulty in finding out the reasons that actuated some gentlemen on the other side of the House to oppose our proposals regarding the work done by the Tutors of the college. The allowance system seems to be almost peculiar in Travancore. The Secretary or the President of the Malayalam Text Book Committee —

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MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The Secretary does not get anything.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I know the President of the Malayalam Text Book Committe was being given a monthly allowance. The Director of the Observatory—

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Sir, I rise to a point of order. He speaks of the allowance given to the Library Secretary. It is purely a non-votable item.

PRESIDENT: It is non-votable, Mr. Velu Pillai.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I shall be able to satisfy you that I am not out of order.

PRESIDENT: I will hear you before I rule.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Mr. Krishna Aiyangar has, with his great prestige and influence as the Deputy President of this Council, contended that it was not right on my part to raise this question, because it deals with the allowance of a high officer. We have been discussing the subject of salaries and allowances during the last four or five days.

PRESIDENT: Not as a definite proposition.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: It is the principle that I want to examine.

PRESIDENT: Are you discussing only a question of policy or recommending a specific reduction?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I am only discussing a question of policy.

PRESIDENT: If you say that, I do not want to stop you, though the amount that you have specifically put down for reduction is the honorarium of the Secretary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: That is the spirit in which I have been dealing with this question. And I am sorry that the Deputy President should have come forward with his weighty protest. Anyhow, I shall not take up the valuable time of this Council with an elaborate discussion of the untenable and unjust objection that has been raised by one of my non-official colleagues. I shall merely render myself the luxury of forgetting what he has said.

Allowances seem to stand on a peculiar footing in Travancore. I resume from where I left. Allowances are given to the Director of the Public Gardens, to the gentlemen in charge of the Library and the Observatory, and to the President of the Malayalam Text-Book Committee.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir,—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar should not interrupt me with the weight of his authority before I finish my

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[Mr. T. K Velu Pillai.]

sentence. I was going to say that these payments were being made to those who were doing honorary work. One officer who is paid for a specific duty must not be saddled with another work. In Travancore, which is a small State where, as I have pointed out on a previous occasion, every man knows every other man, it will be easy for one officer to go about and see people in authority and put in a moderate request that his emoluments might be raised by putting him in charge of the Public Library or the Text Book Committee or such other Committees. Such a state of affairs would encourage the growth of nepotism. And one objection which seems to me more serious than any other is that an officer who gets Rs. 700 or Rs. 800 demeans himself in the estimation of the public, when he is prepared to accept a small allowance of Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 per month. Walpole it was who said that every man had his price; if that be so, the price must at least be reasonably high. But the position of a Professor in the college is thoroughly inconsistent with the Secretaryship of the Library, considered as a source of pecuniary remuneration. If it is honorary work, I shall have private men—retired officers and others—who will take it up. But I strongly object to a Professor taking up this additional work for the lucre it gives.

I do not want to expatiate on that point. But I have to place before this Council this important proposal, that it should very closely investigate the question of allowances to officers, and move the Government to put a stop to these subsidiary sources of official income. I cannot understand the wisdom of calling a man Honorary Secretary when he is not above accepting a pittance. Money seems to be the only consideration for some of them in taking up such work upon themselves. For a very long time we were having real Honorary Secretaries who did not ask for pecuniary remuneration. But of late there seems to have been a change; it is a very unfortunate change; it is a change that puts money into the pockets of people who stoop to ask for it. These officers who accept the so-called honorarium fall in the estimation of Government and the people when the allowances are very small.

Regarding the staff in the Public Library, I have to say a word. If the indenture system that has been alluded to by me should be worked, that would mean that the peons now available are more than sufficient to discharge their additional duties. If the conclusion is in my favour, I would say that their pay should not be reduced, but that some of them should be sent away, because there is not enough work. That is all that I have to submit before this House. It is to fix the attention of this House on the question of allowances mainly that I have tabled this motion The allowances of the Public Library Secretary, the Director, Observatory and the Director of the Museum and the Public Gardens—all these stand on the same footing and therefore these allowances must go altogether.

With these words, I commend the motion to the House.

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MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, I fear it would not be relevant if I spoke on the allowance of any other officer than the Honorary Secretary to the Public Library who receives an honorarium of Rs. 400 per annum. I believe that this House will agree with me when I say that, although I would very much like to see an honorary appointment without any honorarium attached to it, still such an ideal is not always feasible of achievement; and for the work which the Honorary Secretary to the Public Library is doing, I must say that the honorarium of Rs. 400 now awarded is not much. The point that we should consider is that only Professors of colleges and gentlemen situated in positions such as theirs that can, at the end of a busy day, command a few hours' leisure to themselves, which they may utilise for other work, and will be able in the mornings to attend to the requirements of institutions other than those with which they are directly connected. In other words, it is they alone that will be able to attend to other duties in addition to those that are legitimately their own.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Does the member mean to say that the work of the Professors is light as compared to the other officers?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: I do not for one moment mean it. What I wish the House to realise is that the Professors are slightly differently circumstanced from officers employed in other departments in this respect, *i. e.*, that, while the Professors have certain fixed hours allotted to them during which they have to discharge their work in the colleges to which they are attached, it is not possible for the other officers to say that they can work for a specific number of hours in a particular institution and then go out of that institution without the weight of the work there still continuing to remain on their shoulders. No doubt, the Professors of colleges have to prepare their lessons at home, but the officers of other departments have to do the same kind of office work both at home and in the office, and the latter, besides, are not masters of their time at any part of the day, even the benefit of holidays being denied to them.

Then, Sir, speaking of the so-called semi-indenture system to which my friend, Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, referred, I must, in fairness to the authorities of the Public Library, say that no such system is prevalent there, and that the register kept in the library for the readers to sign their names is kept there, more for statistical than for any other purpose. In the circumstances, I do not think anything remains, either in the honorarium of the Honorary Secretary or in the pay of his staff, to be cut down at the present moment. The whole staff is needed for the work that has to be got through and I do not think that it is susceptible of any reduction.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I wish to know whether it will be possible to get respectable non-official gentlemen to look after the duties of the Secretary to the Public Library, and, if so, whether there is any necessity to allow a grant of this nature.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: That is a question which cannot be answered off-hand.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Is Mr. Velu Pillai ready to accept the place, if it is offered to him?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I shall answer that question when Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai becomes part of the Government.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: As an additional ground of justification for the appointment of a Professor of the college as Secretary to the Public Library, it may be mentioned that these Professors will have greater acquaintance with books and have large opportunities for up-to-date reading. So, under ordinary circumstances, a selection can only be made from among them.

MR. L. C. HODGSON: Sir, Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai has found an inconsistency in the appointment of a Professor of the college as the Honorary Secretary to the Public Library, with what I said the other day with regard to the Professors of the college not having any spare time. I do not think that there is any inconsistency at all between what I said and the practice referred to. To be the Honorary Secretary of a large library like the Public Library—I was the Honorary Secretary, and, I may add, the unpaid Secretary of it myself for 8 years—is, I consider, in itself a liberal education. I conceive there is nothing more conducive to the realisation of the desire of persons to pursue knowledge to the utmost limit than to exercise the duties of the Secretary of a large library of this kind. In my opinion Mr. Chandrasekharan is not merely finding an occupation for his leisure time with a view to fill his pocket with a few additional rupees, but he is actually pursuing his profession in undertaking this work.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: I should like to protest against the insinuation contained in Mr. Velu Pillai's speech regarding Mr. Chandrasekharan's going in quest of the appointment for this pittance.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I did not say that with regard to Mr. Chandrasekharan at all. I never said that he was in quest of this appointment. I only said that people, in general, would go in quest of places.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: He said that it was demeaning for officers drawing a salary of Rs. 700 or Rs. 800 to go and cringe for this small pittance. I thought I was right in saying that there was an insinuation here. The matter under discussion related to Mr. Chandrasekharan when Mr. Velu Pillai said that persons did this and that, and relevency requires us to construe that he referred to Mr. Chandrasekharan. Otherwise, there was no occasion for the reference.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I must solemnly state before this Council that I never made any insinuation against Mr. Chandrasekharan, and that I would never make any insinuation against anybody for that matter.

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MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: I accept Mr. Velu Pillai's statement. Anyhow, it would be very ungenerous on the part of the members of the Public Library who have been benefited greatly by Mr. Chandrasekharan being in charge of the Library, if they do not give their appreciation of the valuable services that he is rendering. Unless the Secretary in charge of the Library is a man of wide culture who is able to discuss with any member about the books that he wishes to purchase for the Library, it will be useless. At present, anybody can go and talk profitably with Mr. Chandrasekharan about the books in the Library, about the subjects which he may be studying, or about the new books that he may like to see in the Library. Of course, there are various directions in which such an officer may be of great use, and unless it be a Professor of the college, I cannot imagine who else can be appointed with greater benefit and acceptance from the public. The fact that there is an honorarium attached to it, I do not think, attracted Mr. Chandrasekharan. It must have been attached to it in the ordinary course of events. The Government is not a philanthropic institution. I do not know whether it was within the province of Mr. Chandrasekharan to accept it or to refuse it. I do not think that he must have attached any value to the honorarium. Perhaps the work must have been attractive. He might have undertaken it for the sake of the work itself and I do not vouch for there having been any connection between the one and the other. I do not know if such persons can be found outside the Maha Raja's College. Of course, when any other person like Mr. Chandrasekharan is available, Government will gladly find him out and utilise his services. As it is, we must be very thankful to Mr. Chandrasekharan.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR: Mr. President, I have found some difficulty in fully grasping the position of my friend, Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai. He has urged many points, and I do not wish to deal with all of them. In regard to his criticism of the purchase of unsuitable books, I should like to say that all books are, under the rules governing the Public Library, bought after the approval of the majority of the members of the Managing Committee and the sanction of the Government. In regard to the question of the payment of an honorarium to the Honorary Secretary, I do not wish to discuss either the wisdom or the feasibility of doing so, or to say whether the amount paid be small or large. If the suggestion is that the honorarium, being small, should be increased, it is for this House to consider that question. What I should like to say, however, is that the question is not a *new* one. The grant of an honorarium for the Honorary Secretary was urged by successive Secretaries of the Library—Mr. Hodgson will, I think, confirm my statement from his knowledge—and it was repeatedly vetoed by the Government. At last, some years back, the Government saw fit to sanction the grant of the honorarium now given.

A question has been raised as to the propriety of a full-time Professor of the college being appointed as the Honorary Secretary, when non-officials could be found. I fail to see the impropriety. We have



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[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

been reminded that Professors are full-time servants of the Government. If this be so and a professor is asked to undertake work of this nature, he is assuredly bound to do so, whether he is at the same time asked to accept an honorarium for the work or not. Government might see the fitness of exonerating certain officers from doing such work, without paying them *extra* remuneration. But if they pitch on one of them for a duty and offer to give him a fee, he is assuredly not to be blamed if he does the work. I presume that, when such appointments as that of the Secretary of the Public Library are made, they are made by the Government acting *suo motu*, and not at the instance of the officers concerned. In any case, it will be seen that it is not only in the present case that a professor of the local college has been appointed as Secretary of the Public Library, but for a considerable length of time practically, as far as I can recollect, the office has been held by a Professor of the same institution, or at least by a member of the educational service. I remember, for instance, that Dr. Bishop was once Secretary many years ago, and he was followed, I remember, by Mr. LaBouchardiere, by Mr. Hodgson, by Dr. Clark, by Mr. Sloss, and by Mr. Walker. The only exceptions that I can remember are those of the tenure of office of the present distinguished President of the Managing Committee of the Library, our esteemed countryman, Dewan Bahadur A. Govinda Pillai, and of Mr. H. S. Ferguson. In both these cases also, the appointments were made on the principle which, I think, should underlie them, namely, that of selecting one who is habitually dealing with books and literature. A Professor's business is, or ought to be, with books and with reading. His hours of work are generally fixed. He is resident in the town. Consequently, when we require some one to manage the Library, it is more easy to pitch on a Professor for the work, than any one else, official or non-official. This is why the majority of the persons who have been connected with the management of the Library, in any capacity, have been members of the educational service. To such men the work cannot be distasteful and it should even be attractive. Compelling them to do such work might not meet with such pronounced unwillingness, as, for instance, might be the case, if a Professor was asked to work, not in the Library, but in looking after some work under my friend, the Chief Engineer. It is generally understood that *extra* work, in the sense of work outside the ordinary duties of an officer, has some claim to remuneration, and it is, I suppose, on this principle that the Secretary is now given the honorarium, which has been criticised. If the work is congenial in itself and useful to the public, while at the same time not prejudicial to one's ordinary duties—as the work connected with the Public Library must be to a teacher—I am not surprised that it is attractive to members of the educational service, particularly when it is also remunerated. Nor can it be objected that such men should be appointed Secretaries as have till now held the place, because, in agreeing to help in the management of the Library, they are doing a thing congenial to themselves and beneficial to the public.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I have to answer some remarks made in this connection by some members of this House. Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar perhaps imagines that I was in favour of increasing the honorarium. Coming as it does from a gentleman of Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar's calibre, I will leave it unanswered, because I am quite sure that Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar will get the explanation himself on calmer reflection without my assistance. But I should respectfully tell him that I did not say that the honorarium should be increased. Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar also said that it was the custom for members on the staff of His Highness the Maha Raja's College to hold that appointment. But he himself admitted that Dewan Bahadur Govinda Pillai was Secretary for some time. I know that he was looking after his duties with that devotion to duty so well-known and characteristic of himself.

The Director of Public Instruction, in the course of an eloquent and inspiring speech, affirmed that the Secretaryship of the Public Library is a kind of liberal education. Indeed it is so. But, although Mr. Hodgson and myself have had several differences of opinion regarding educational problems, there is one matter on which I have absolutely no difference of opinion, *viz.*, on the stern, rigid, praiseworthy impartiality of Mr. Hodgson. Now, Sir, if it is a kind of literary education to send a Professor to be the Secretary of the Public Library, I do not understand the reason why anybody —Mr. Hodgon or the Government— could be partial to Mr. Chandrasekharan, because on their own showing the other members of the staff will do well to serve out their post-graduate course. To me the argument carries little conviction.

My object in bringing this motion before this House has been sufficiently explained. There are some appointments for which allowances are not paid, although the work is not light. I am one of those who have been keeping up Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar's acquaintance ever since I had the opportunity of coming in contact with him in the College. When I went to his house one day, I found him laboriously typing letters regarding his work in connection with the Secretaryship of the Text-book Committee. He did not care to ask for an allowance and I am sure Mr. Chandrasekharan will be glad to do likewise. As I said just a while ago, the principle of giving allowance to some officers is wrong. The rules ought not to be respectors of persons.

As I have had an opportunity to answer the arguments advanced against me and as I have succeeded in my object of placing the matter for your consideration, I shall gladly withdraw the motion.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, the reduction of Rs. 400 proposed by my friend, Mr. Velu Pillai, if voted upon by this House, will not go towards the reduction of the honorarium of the Honorary Secretary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, my friend is not in order. I have already said that I have withdrawn the motion.

PRESIDENT: Does the House permit him to withdraw? If so, Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar need not reply.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

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[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

**Motion 157.**

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, as I had my say already, I do not make the motion.

The following motion was, therefore, not made:

*MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:*

*157. To reduce the allotment of Rs 10,800 for the Public Library by Rs. 100.*

**Motion 158.**

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

158. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,246 for the Archæological Department.

My object in bringing this motion—

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, I cannot hear a word.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: My object in bringing this motion before this House is to bring out the fact that, although there has been in existence for some years past a department called the Archæological Department, the public know very little of it and they are benefited very little. Of course, I saw the names of two or three volumes published in the advertisement columns of the Government Gazette; but they are priced at such an amount that, I am sure, nobody in this House will purchase them.

From a scientific or historic point of view such researches are good in themselves. But, if the results of these researches are not published and, if, when published, they are sold at such a price that ordinary people cannot buy them, it is no use spending public money in maintaining such a department. I know the first gentleman who was the Archæologist here. He was a good friend of mine. Towards the end of his career he told me that he had collected a good many archæological inscriptions, but he could not get sufficient money to publish them. Either the Government should spend sufficient money or not spend money at all. I say, therefore, that there is absolutely no good in allotting such a small sum to this department. If anything useful is to be done, it must be worked properly, *i. e.*, it must have its regular publications.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, will the member inform the House what he exactly means by 'useful'?

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: It is not very easy to explain it to those people who do not understand and who have no taste for such things. I for one have got some interest in Archæology, but I am unable to buy such books. Whereas in British India we can get these volumes for Re. 1 or Rs. 1½, here—

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, may I ask what archæological books can be got for Re. 1 or Rs. 1½ in British India?

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: I will refer him to Mr. Thurston's publications. They are advertised in the Madras newspapers.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Those are bulletins on ethnology.

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MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: Whatever 'ology it is, (*laughter*) I do not care. I protest against the unreasonable value of the publications in Travancore.

My object in bringing up this motion is to discuss the policy. If the department is found useful, let the grant stand there.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, if both the motions, *i .e.*, 158 and 159, are identical, I should like to hear Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai's speech on his motion also, before I reply.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: In the light of what Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar has already said on behalf of Government, I do not propose to speak on my motion.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar, Mr. Velu Pillai does not wish to speak on his motion, and so you may reply to Mr. Govinda Menon.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, the Archaeological Department was reorganised in 1084 M. E., and it has now been working for the last 13 years. During this period, the department has collected 900 stone inscriptions and 97 copper plates, of which 655 stone inscriptions and 96 copper plates (inclusive of duplicates) have been published in the Travancore Archaeological Series, Vol. I to Part 1 of Vol. IV, covering about 850 pages. This series has furnished abundant materials for a systematic study of the history of South India in its relations to Travancore, and of the dialectical peculiarities of the Malayalam and Tamil languages. Among the important results of the research work hitherto carried on by the department may be catalogued the discovery of a dynasty of the *Ay* kings mentioned in Tamil classics; an account of the evolution of the Tamil *granthæ* and *Vattezhuttu* alphabets; the discovery of the existence of a *Chera* king who was a contemperory of Sri Sankaracharya; the identification of *Manukuladitya* as a *Chera* king; the dissemination of information on the *Mushaka* kings; a history of the Cholas up to the time of *Virarajendrà*; and the discovery of records relating to *Indukodaivarman, Keralakesari* and *Udayamartandavarman*—names hitherto unknown to history. The publication of an authoritative work on Hindu Iconography and Iconometry is also worthy of note in this connection.

There still remain 245 complete inscriptions to be properly edited and the Department hopes to be able to secure about 100 more inscriptions. To edit these 345 inscriptions, it is essential that we should engage the services of a scholar of approved merit and acknowledged reputation in the world of epigraphy, and Government are accordingly indenting on the services of one of the officers of the Archæological Department of British India. I may here add that some previous technical training is needed for a person who has to handle *Vattezhuttu* inscriptions, especially of a comparatively late period, and hence it is preferable to entrust the work in question to an officer who has already been in the field. As I have already informed the House, it is hoped that this officer will be able to finish the arrears of work in

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[Mr. A. Govinda Menon.]

his department within three years, which is the period for which the loan of his services is being secured, and after that it will no longer be necessary to retain the department as an independent entity. This department, I need hardly assure the House, is turning out work of a kind which is not as much known to the public as it ought to be, but it is none the less valuable on that account. Mr. K. V. Subrahmanya Aiyar, the Archæologist we had, was relieved on the 14th February, 1922. If the department is abolished at this stage, the remaining records available for the elucidation of several doubtful points in the ancient history of the Deccan will disappear.

In regard to the high prices at which the publications of the Archæological Department are now sold, to which Mr. Govinda Menon referred, I regret that the prices of these publications are high and that it is not possible for the ordinary reader to purchase them. But each of these volumes contains such a large number of engravings that the cost of publishing it is heavy and that it is not businesslike to sell it at a lower price than that at which it is now sold. The House will also realise that it is not likely that these publications will find a wide sale, even if the prices are reduced, for it is only readers of a particular class that have a fascination for them.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: Sir, I am prepared to withdraw the motion. I only wanted to draw the attention of Government to the fact that these publications might be made useful at least to some extent. They may extract some portions of them either in English or in Malayalam and publish them, so that the people may know something about these publications.

PRESIDENT: The review on the annual report of the department is regularly published.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: It is only the review and that is very meagre. The people should at least know the outlines of the work of the department.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: All that is contained in the annual report. Only a few copies of the annual report are printed now, but we may make arrangements for more copies being printed.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

***Motion* 158.**

The following motion was not made.

*MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI:*

*159. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,246 for the Archæological Department by Rs. 10.*

The Council rose for lunch at 1-55 P. M. and met again at 2-50 P. M.

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***Motion 160.***

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

160. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,900 for the Preservation of Oriental Literature by Rs. 100.

At the outset, I may submit that I am not going to add to the forces that are already operating against a department which probably enjoys but a precarious survival. I am coming forward to support the department. But, in supporting the department, I may be permitted to offer certain suggestions which seem necessary for its better working. From the budget estimate of this year, as well as that of the previous year, it may be seen that the grant under this head is mainly intended for the publication of literature not only in the Sanskrit language, but also in the vernacular languages. Going through the Administration Report for the year 1096, I see that, as yet, no publication has been undertaken in the vernaculars. Though a copy of *Ramacharitam* has been obtained, it has not yet been published. That is a deplorable state of affairs. The money budgeted for on this account distinctly makes mention of the publication of Sanskrit as well as vernacular works. Even after securing a complete copy, I fail to see why the publication of such an invaluable work as *Ramacharitam*, which furnished the guiding light to Dr. Gundert to write his Dictionary, was put off. Now, there may be an explanation. Considering the qualifications of the Curator and the staff employed to assist him, it appears to me that they may not be proficient in vernacular literature. If that is so, I would suggest, for the attention of Government, that it is essential to have on the staff of the Curator somebody who will be able to help the Curator in matters relating to vernacular literature.

Then, coming to the Sanskrit portion of the work that is being done by the Curator, I greatly appreciate what he has been able to do. Personally speaking, I have absolutely no hesitation in saying that Pandit Ganapati Sastri is a scholar of unrivalled merit and proficiency. But, all the same, certain observations, I think, would be relevant with respect to that department and the Curator's work as well. For, in spite of the proficient and unrivalled scholarship of the Curator, one fact stands out. His proficiency, judged by the preponderance of the publications of the department, is practically confined to the realm of Sanskrit literary works and is a little exclusive in relation to other domains of art and knowledge, viewed from the standpoint of universal culture, so much so. that I was informed by a certain gentleman that a copy of *Kautilya's Arthasastra* was purchased or received by the Curator long before the Oriental Publication Department of the Mysore State managed to secure that work, and yet—

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR: I beg to correct my friend. The copy which Mr. Ganapati Sastri got was obtained long after the other.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: My friend, Mr. Parameswara Aiyar, told me this afternoon that the Mysore people got it earlier. The

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[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

interruption of Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar confirms that information and I am glad that Mysore did not steal a march over us. All the same, I would urge that the comparative value of works to be published and already published is a matter liable to be misjudged, unless the wider perspective of human culture as a whole is steadily kept in view. Now, as we see, the main attempt of the Curator seems to be confined to literature proper, *i. e., Sahitya*, as it is called in Sanskrit. No doubt, he has published certain works on *Tarka, Nyaya, Mimamsa* and other fields of knowledge. But those sides seem to have not received the serious importance they deserve at the hands of the Curator. The value of the publications will have to be decided and priority given to such publications as would attract the general attention of the world. That also requires the reorganisation of the staff of the Curator. Scholars who are not exclusively confined to the domain of Sanskrit literature must be engaged as assistants, or should be put on a board formed to direct the Curator, and the Curator should be asked to publish works as suggested by such a board, not exactly as a subordinate but as a collaborator. In view of this fact, I would suggest a reorganisation of the whole department. Further, I wish to point out that the public will also be in a position to judge for themselves, if a list of the manuscripts collected by the Curator is published. We have also got some manuscripts in the Palace of His Highness the Maha Raja, and some of them are very valuable. Therefore, if it would be permissible, I would bring to the notice of Government the necessity to compile a list of all these manuscripts, not only of such as have been procured by the Curator from independent sources, but also of those that are available in the Palace Library. By such a list the public may be enabled to understand the relative merits of the works that await publication and may suggest to the Curator or to his staff, or to the contemplated reorganised staff, the order in which future publications may be undertaken. These are the main points that I have to bring to the notice of the Council in connection with this question. One point that I wish to emphasise particularly is that the neglect that has been shown to vernacular literature, with regard to such works as *Ramacharitam*, seems to me not quite pardonable.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, the estimated outlay on this department for 1098 M. E. is only Rs. 7,900, and it is needless for me to assure this House that the State receives an adequate return for this outlay. The total number of Sanskrit manuscripts hitherto collected by the department comes to 1,304, some of which, of course, are duplicates, and only 74 manuscripts among them have hitherto been published. This department was organised in 1084, the year in which the Archæological Department was reorganised, and, during the past thirteen years of its existence, it has been turning out work of a kind of which every Travancorean has good cause to feel legitimately proud. As Kashmir in the north, Travancore in the south has, from time

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immemorial, been the home of Sanskrit learning, and its rulers have ever been some of the most distinguished patrons of Sanskrit literature in India. Ancient and hitherto unknown works in almost every department of knowlege have been published, among them in the field of drama alone being thirteen plays attributed to Bhasa, the forerunner of the immortal Kalidasa, two plays of Kulasekharavarma, a Chera king who was a contemporary of Sri Sankaracharya and who therefore lived before Bhavabhuti, and the *Pradyumnabhyudaya* of Ravivarma Sangramadhira of Travancore, the distinguished conqueror of the Pandya and Chola empires at the end of the 13th century of the Christian era. Mahamahopadhyaya T. Ganapati Sastri, whose unostentatious work as the editor of the *Trivandrum Sanskrit Series*, has elicited the unstinted encomium of Sanskrit scholars throughout the world, and who is to-day an Honorary Member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland—a distinction which he shares in India with only another, the revered Sir Ramakrishna Bhandarkar of Poona—has now on hand an edition of Kautilya's *Arthasastra* whose publication, in however crude and imperfect a form by Mr. Sama Sastri of Mysore a few years ago, served to revolutionise our conception of ancient Hindu polity.

I am reminded, in this connection, of an incident which happened in the camp of the Dewan of Travancore in 1903, on the occasion of the Delhi Darbar. Two American globe-trotters were passing by that camp, and one of them said to the other: "This is the camp of the Dewan of Travancore." And "What is Travancore?", asked the other American. The first American then observed that Travancore is the country which produced Ravi Varma, the Indian Artist, and immediately the other American understood everything about our country and both the globe-trotters moved on. Similarly, there are several towns in Europe and America, which to-day know Travancore, and know it only as the country which is giving out to the world the *Trivandrum Sanskrit Series*. Several of the publications in this series—notably the works attributed to Bhasa—have been translated into English and other European languages. This department is bringing name and fame to Travancore in a manner and to an extent which no other institution does or can, and I feel keenly that it is the duty of this House to give it heart and give it time to move forward. I am glad to hear from a scholar of the reputation of my friend, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, that the department is turning out adequate work.

To one or two defects in the administration of the department pointed out by my friend, I shall now briefly refer. The first defect is that the department is not devoting sufficient attention to the publication of Malayalam manuscripts. I find that only 19 Malayalam manuscripts have been collected so far, of which two are manuscripts of *Ramacharitam*. My friend is aware that the earlier portion of that work has already been published by me and that an edition of the whole work has been undertaken by me at the request of the Madras University. This is independent of the work which Mr. Ganapati Sastri has on hand. The manuscripts which Mr. Ganapati Sastri obtained have been handed over to Mr. P. S. Ramaswami

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[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

Aiyar, Tamil Pandit of His Highness the Maha Raja's College, who is editing the work critically. A portion of the work has already been printed and I trust that the book will soon see the light of day. I am sorry that among the other manuscripts collected by Mr. Ganapati Sastri there are few works of any literary or historical importance, and I feel sure that, if he makes a careful search for Malayalam manuscripts during his tours, it will be possible for him to collect several of them. It is the idea of the Government to put a good Malayalam scholar under Mr. Ganapati Sastri as soon as an opportunity becomes available, so that he may travel with Mr. Sastri to collect the manuscripts and bring them to the library. It is only after an adequate collection of manuscripts is made that we shall be in a position to take up one work after another, in the order of priority of importance, for publication.

Another point to which Mr. Narayana Pillai referred was that Mr. Ganapati Sastri was devoting rather exclusive attention to the publication of works on Sanskrit *Sahitya* to the prejudice of those on other departments of knowledge. I regret that I cannot agree to this charge. If Mr. Narayana Pillai carefully goes through the list of the publications of Mr. Ganapati Sastri, he will find that, *pari passu* with the publication of works on Sanskrit *Sahitya*, works on several other branches of knowledge, *e. g.*, on *Vyakarana*, on *Tarka*, on *Mimamsa*, on *Vedanta*, and on *Silpa* have been published by Mr. Sastri. The inclination of Mr. Ganapati Sastri is, as far as I am aware, to publish works on Sastras to the exclusion of works on *Sahitya*; and left to himself he would have excised *Sahitya* altogether. I may assure Mr. Narayana Pillai that it is on account of pressure from outside and from having some regard for the commercial point of view of the business, that he now and then publishes works on *Sahitya* also along with other subjects, while the publication of such works on certain occasions may also be traced to purely historical reasons. The department, I would repeat, is doing work of an extremely valuable kind, and it requires all the help and support which this Council is in a position to render it in the accomplishment of its objects.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI: Sir, I endorse Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's views in regard to the neglect shown by the Curator in the publication of vernacular manuscripts. I am inclined to support him as regards his suggestion for the reorganisation of the department and the proper constitution of an advisory board, as the present scope of the department appears to be very narrow and limited. I wish to know whether the publication of oriental literature includes Tamil manuscripts. If not, I beg to enquire why. There is a place for Tamil literature in Travancore, and, in one sense, ancient Malayalam is hardly distinguishable from ancient Tamil. Perhaps it is known to some of the members of the House that one of the five great epics in the Tamil language, *viz.*, *Chilappatikaram*, was composed by a Chera prince, Ilankovatikal, the heir-apparent to the throne, during the reign of Cheran

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Chenkuttuvan in the second century of the Christian era. Further, one of the Cheraman Perumals was a famous Tamil poet and saint and he has composed among other Tamil works the famous poems of the *Adiyula* and all of them are fortunately now extant. The *Pattu pâttu*, *Puranânuru* and other Tamil works contain a string of poems sung in honor of the Chera kings. Other instances of Tamil authors are also to be found in abundance in Travancore. In referring to the neglect shown in the publication of vernacular manuscripts, Mr. Narayana Pillai omitted to mention Tamil manuscripts. If the Curator will only be good enough to consult some well-informed Tamil pandit on the subject, it is quite possible to find, and I may assure the House that there are many valuable Tamil manuscripts of works produced in Travancore, whose publication is worthy of being taken up by the department organised for the preservation of oriental literature.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR: Sir, I wish to say a few words on three or four points raised by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai in the speech in support of his motion. It is necessary that I should do so. I am glad that, on one point, I need not say anything at present, since it is admitted that no special testimonial is *now* required to set forth the shining merits of Mahamahopadhyaya T. Ganapati Sastri, and the excellence of the work he has been doing. I am happy that it is recognised in this House that it would savour of absurdity to canvass his talents and qualifications at this time of the day, when his great reputation as a scholar and researcher has spread over three continents.

The first of Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's points is this. He has made the suggestion—and a very good suggestion it is, if I might say so—that the Curator should publish every year a statement or report on the manuscripts collected by him or by his subordinates or examined by him, whether such manuscripts be taken up for publication at once or not. I fully sympathise with the proposal. What I should say, however, is that Mr. Ganapati Sastri has not been unmindful of this, and that, therefore, the criticism underlying the suggestion that the work has *yet* to be undertaken is unjustified. For, I may tell Mr. Narayana Pillai as well as the Council that such a statement *has been* issued by Mr. Ganapati Sastri every year, for many years. I have been privileged to receive them, and I am sure that, if the Curator knows that Mr. Narayana Pillai is interested in the work, and, if the latter applies to Mr. Ganapati Sastri, he will assuredly receive copies of these statements, just as I have been getting them. I say again that this is a work which Mr. Ganapati Sastri *is* doing, and not one which he has *yet* to do.

A second suggestion of Mr. Narayana Pillai is that the manuscripts in the Palace of His Highness the Maha Raja should be catalogued, and that the Curator should see that this is done. I am surprised that it is not known to so ardent a student of Sanskrit as Mr. Narayana Pillai that this work *was* done many years ago, under the supervision of that distinguished scholar, the late Valiya Koil Tampuran. Mr. Ganapati Sastri was, I believe, the Pandit who then did himself the

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[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

bulk of this work. The catalogue has been printed and I myself possess a copy. If this is the work that Mr. Narayana Pillai would like the Curator to take up, I should say it is unnecessary now, as it *has* been already done. Of course, it was a first work, and not perfect. Possibly, it would justify revision and being brought up to date. It must be the experience of many persons, as it has been mine, that the Library in question contains many valuable manuscripts which are not listed in the catalogue. Thus, some years ago, when I obtained permission to examine the only two copies of a work said to exist in the Library, I found that there were seven more manuscripts of it than were specified in the catalogue. The Library may contain similar versions of manuscripts which have been catalogued. But the catalogue in question is only an *index* catalogue, classified according to subjects. If what Mr. Narayana Pillai wants is more than this, that is, if what he asks for is a "descriptive catalogue" or a "critical catalogue," such as has been in course of publication for several years in Madras for the Oriental Manuscripts Library, or has been published by famous men for the great libraries of the west, I should like to tell the House that the work is a stupendous one, vast and costly, requiring an array of scholars for its rapid completion, and years and numerous volumes for its publication. Assuredly, it cannot be suggested for even a moment that the Curator could have done all this, along with his present work, and with his present staff and grant.

A third criticism of Mr. Narayana Pillai is in regard to the one-sided character of the works selected for publication by the Curator, so far. I have heard this criticism before, and from others, and while I grant that it has some support in the nature of the bulk of the works so far published, it is not justified as a criticism against Mr. Ganapati Sastri. Every scholar has his own special bias and his own special lines, in which he would like all future publications to be concentrated. Mr. Narayana Pillai must have such a bias. I confess I have it, and that is one of the things which make me urge upon Mr. Ganapati Sastri, practically at every one of our meetings—and we meet five or six times at least a month—the selection of the class of literature that I am keen on, for publication. In fairness, however, to him, I must also say that he has been endeavouring to make his selection truly representative of all branches of literature, and has not tried to restrict the series of which he is the editor to only one class. A reference to the list of works published—there are seventy or so—and of those undertaken for publication, will show this clearly. I must be allowed, at the same time, to submit two points relevant to the consideration of this criticism, to Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai and to the Council. These are, first, that you cannot get a single Sanskrit scholar, who is an adept in every branch of the vast literature of Sanskrit, much less a body of such scholars for the office staff of our Curator, and, second, that, after all, the business of Mr. Ganapati Sastri is to publish the manuscripts which exist or have been discovered in Travancore. I am sure

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that Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai will admit the first of these two points. Unless he is going to give the Curator a staff ten times more versatile, if not more numerous than it now is, I fail to see how it could undertake, without any reduction of the high reputation for scholarship that our Sanskrit Series now enjoys, the editing of works in *every branch* of Sanskrit literature. In regard to my second point, I wish to say that there is such a thing as division of labour even among scholars, and that it is of advantage to scholarship that each editor and each State should be restricted to the publication of works for which they have special facilities of access. This is what our Curator has been doing. He has edited works found in Travancore or Cochin, or Tinnevelly. Surely, he need not publish works discovered in Baroda or Rajputana in the *Trivandrum Sanskrit series*. Not that he *cannot* do so, by himself, as I believe he has done in editing for the State of Baroda some manuscripts found by its Oriental Department, and assigned to him for editing, as an expert in certain branches. That is a different matter. His duty, if he is to secure real economy of work in the realm of scholarship, is to utilise and publish the materials which he has himself collected or discovered. It is not possible to regulate his discoveries so as to ensure an equal representation of every branch of Sanskrit literature. If there is, therefore, any lop-sidedness in the series published by Mr. Ganapati Sastri, I venture to think that it must be due to the manner in which discoveries of new works have been coming in the State, perhaps even to the one-sided character of the old libraries in our country, and not to any bias on the part of the Curator or any desire on his part to include some works and to exclude others on account of personal likes and dislikes. Any one who knows the libraries of the West Coast will know this. But, even here, one comes across unexpected finds. For instance, Mr. Ganapati Sastri hit some time back on a most rare Pali work, written on palm-leaf, and found in a *matham* in South Travancore, which has hitherto been known only from an ancient translation of it into Chinese. In the same way, after I suggested, some years ago, the probability of manuscripts of the famous *Arthasastra* of Kautilya being discoverable on the West Coast, Mr. Ganapati Sastri made assiduous searches for it, and discovered several manuscripts of this rare work, with purer text, and one of them with a partial commentary too, than the published Mysore text. This is now undertaken for publication. I think that nothing more need be said to show that the Curator and his assistants are working on the right lines and that he is utilising to the utmost advantage his opportunities and the equipment of himself and his staff.

Before I conclude, Sir, I must say a few words on a further point which has been suggested, about which I trust there will not be much discussion. It is the suggestion that has astonished me, that a scholar or a group of scholars should be put over the head of the Curator, to regulate his work! Is it suggested that we have, or can get a scholar of wider knowledge or riper experience than Mahamahopadhyaya Ganapati Sastri for our work, and to act as his collaborator, if not

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

his superior? Is it likely that effective work can be done when one such scholar is superimposed upon another? What is the precise advantage that is to be derived by making such an appointment? Is it justifiable in the light of what has already been said? I trust that the Council will realise the untenableness of this suggestion and not treat it as a serious proposition.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I see from what has been said by my friends, Messrs. Paramesvara Aiyar and Rangaswami Aiyangar, as well as by my friend Mr. Lakshmana Pillai, that, unknown to me, something has been done in the field of preparing lists. I am only glad that it has been done.

But with respect to my suggestion that it is better to have a board also to assist Mr. Ganapati Sastri in all these matters, since my friend says that it is open to further discussion, for the time being I shall also leave the suggestion where it is.

My first idea was this. Mr. Sastri is getting old, and old age with its gray concomitants does not seem to make any distinction between the learned and the unlearned.

Secondly, I do not want to subordinate Mr. Ganapati Sastri to any other person. As to the merits of Mr. Ganapati Sastri, as Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar suggests, nobody wants to add any word to support their weight. It is already an established fact. As I first said, it is not with any view to throw any slightest slur on Mr. Sastri that I suggested the appointment of assistants, but only for the improvement of the system of publications.

With reference to the Palace manuscripts, I too have had some furtive glances at the Library in the Palace and can confirm the statement by Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar that the catalogue does not exhaust all the manuscripts preserved there. All this is only a matter for the consideration of Government. So, I have no desire to force the motion to a division.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, among the collections of Mr. Ganapati Sastri, there is also a Tamil manuscript by name *Puranakavyam*. It is a work on medicine. There may be other unpublished Tamil works also. Only they are not available in large numbers in this country.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: I take it that motions 161 and 162 are identical. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai will move his motion.

***Motion* 161.**

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

161. To omit the allotment of Rs. 12,500 for the Economic Development Board.

I would have preferred my friend, Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, to make this motion. The adoption of this motion would mean the

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abolition of the Economic Development Board. Its abolition may be advocated on two grounds.

The first is that the Board is not doing any useful work. I do not wish to dwell on that aspect of the question. I would leave it to my non-official friends, some of whom had opportunities of knowing the inner working of that body by having been members of the Board, either at its inception or by co-option. I wish to dwell upon another aspect. The Development Board was constituted as an advisory body to advise the Government on almost all technical matters referred to them and also on matters affecting the development of the country which they might take on their own initiation. I find that the advice of the Board is not being given that weight which it deserves. In fact, in the last two instances, Government have not accepted their advice at all. I refer to the advice given by the Board in regard to the Kallar Scheme and the investment of capital by the Government in the Travancore Sugars, Ltd.

My friend, Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, brought a resolution on the Kallar Scheme and tried to impress upon this Council the necessity for adopting the recommendation made by the Board, but without success. My object is to draw the attention of this Council to the recommendation made by the Board in regard to the investment in the Travancore Sugars, Ltd., and the action that the Government have taken in that matter. The Board recommended that it was not advisable on the part of the Government to make any investment or to take any shares in the proposed Company, and that, if necessary, a loan might be given to the Company on obtaining proper security. But Government have thought otherwise and have made an investment. Under the Rules of the Council a discussion on that matter is not possible. If it is not intended that the advice of the Board should, as far as possible, be strictly adhered to, I cannot see why any money should be spent upon the Board. For these reasons, I move that the allotment be omitted.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Sir, the charges laid at the door of the Economic Development Board are two—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Not against the Board, but against the Government.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I think, indirectly against the Board also. The charges are that the Board's advice is not being accepted by the Government, and that the Board is not doing any useful work. Mr. Raman Pillai has dealt with the first charge at length and left the second to be tackled by the other speakers. I shall, however, anticipate them and point out briefly what the Board has done before replying to Mr. Raman Pillai's observations. It must be remembered that the Board is purely an advisory body. It was constituted by a G. O. dated the 20th June, 1921, and its first meeting was held on the 30th July, 1921, so that the Board has been in existence for just about a year only. During this one year the Board held five meetings, and those of you, gentlemen, who have had the occasion to read the minutes of the meetings which

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[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

have been published in the Government Gazette will, I am sure, be convinced of the useful work that the Board has done. I shall just mention a few of the most important items.

The functions of the Board, as defined by the Government, are—

(1) to discuss all questions of policy relating to the working of the various Development Departments;

(2) to make suggestions to Government in regard to agricultural, industrial and other matters of economic importance and to co-ordinate the work of the several Development Departments; and

(3) to consider important proposals and schemes sent up by each individual Development Department of Government and make recommendations thereon.

You will see from the minutes of the meetings that the Board at one of its early meetings considered very elaborately the policy relating to the working of the Co-operative Department and came to the conclusion that, in spite of the good work done by that department, there were certain directions in which improvement could be effected The Board, therefore, directed the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to enquire into the working of his department along the lines laid down by the Board and submit a report pointing out the existing defects with suggestions to remedy them. The report of the Registrar has been received and will be considered by the Board at its next meeting. The Board also suggested to the Registrar the advisability of organising co-operative conferences and accordingly two conferences were held this year, one at Nagercoil and the other at Kottayam. The Board furthier suggested that the Registrar should pay special attention to the organisation of Co-operative Societies among the artisan classes, and it is worthy of note that he has already started one society for the printers and mechanics employed at the Government Press, and another for the employees in the Public Works Department Workshop. As a result of the combined efforts of the Co-operative and Fishery Departments, a few societies have been formed among the fishermen and steps are being taken to organise more such societies. It is evident, therefore, that, in accordance with the suggestion of the Board, the Registrar is doing all that is possible for encouraging the co-operative movement among the artisan classes

In regard to agriculture, the Board at the very commencement took up the question of increasing the output of paddy in the country and referred it for detailed consideration to a special committee. This committee discussed the question in all its aspects and submitted a report which was considered and accepted by the Board. In accordance with the suggestions made by the committee, the Board recommended to Government the appointment of a competent Engineer on special duty for completing the investigations of the various reclamation and irrigation schemes which have already been partly investigated by

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the Public Works Department and also suggested that the Chief Engineer should be directed to furnish the Board with the information available in his office about the above schemes. I am glad to say that the Government have taken action on the latter suggestion. The Board further suggested the advisability of paying greater attention to minor irrigation and the appointment of a special staff to carry out the repair of irrigation tanks and canals throughout the State. This question is, I understand, engaging the attention of Government.

Under Industries, the Board discussed at considerable length the Sugar Scheme and the Kallar Hydro-Electric Scheme which were referred to it by the Government and the recommendations of the Board on these schemes were duly submitted to them. Two other schemes have recently been referred to the Board, one by the Director of Industries about the manufacture of caustic soda and the other by the Conservator of Forests about the manufacture of paper pulp. The reports on these schemes have been received from the officers concerned and they will be considered at the next meeting of the Board.

Another subject referred to the Board by the Government is the proposal of the Director of Agriculture for the preparation of bone manure. The Board has negotiated with the Travancore Sugars, Ltd., on this subject, and they have agreed to undertake bone-crushing and to supply bone-manure at a cheap rate when their sugar refinery is established.

The question of starting a State bank or a State-aided bank which is indispensable for the material development of the country also engaged the attention of the Board. The Government themselves took the initiative in this matter and deputed an officer to Baroda and Mysore to study the banking systems of those States and submit proposals for starting a bank in Travancore. This officer's report was referred to the Board and at one of its meetings the Board went into the question thoroughly and arrived at certain conclusions which were submitted to Government for orders.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I wish to know whether the report referred to has been published.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: It has been printed.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: It has not been made available to the public.

PRESIDENT: It can be made available.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: It has been made available to the members of the Board. Sir, I have only mentioned the most important items of the work done by the Board. There are various other matters which could be mentioned under the different activities of the Board, but I refrain from doing so for want of time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Will Dr. Kunjan Pillai tell us the average attendance of the members at the meetings of the Board?



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[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: The minutes which had been published in the Gazette contain the names of the members who attended the meetings. I may say, however, that the average attendance was not less than 75 per cent.

Now, regarding the point urged by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai, namely, that the advice tendered by the Board is not accepted by the Government, I must say that it is not possible for the Government to accept any and every piece of advice offered by the Board. I do not think that this is being done anywhere. When Government appoint a Committee or a Board to advise them on any question, they do not bind themselves to accept all the recommendations of that body. It is impossible for a Government to do so, because the Committee may only deal with certain aspects of the question, whereas Government have to consider other aspects interconnected with matters beyond the purview of the Committee. I have been a member of the Board of Agriculture in India for several years and I know that all the resolutions passed by that Board are not acted upon by the Government of India. Some resolutions are accepted, while others are rejected, and on this account nobody has argued that the Board is a useless body and should be abolished.

The two specific subjects in regard to which the Government are accused by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai of not having accepted the recommendations of the Economic Development Board are the Sugar Scheme and the Kallar Hydro-Electric Scheme. It must be remembered that the Sugar Scheme was first decided upon at a conference held in the Huzur Office on the 14th March, 1921, under the presidency of the Dewan. The first *Press Communiqué* on the subject was issued on the 19th July, 1921, *i. e.*, 11 days previous to the first meeting of the Board. In the *Press Communiqué* Government made a definite promise to subscribe 25 per cent. of the share capital required to work out the scheme, if a company with sufficient capital would come forward to undertake the business. Be it noted that this promise was made before the question was referred to the Board, or for that matter, even before the Board itself came into existence. After the Board was formed, the reference made to it was only for the selection of a managing agency for the sugar concern which had already been decided upon by the Government. The Board was not asked to go into the merits of the scheme, nor to advise Government as to how they should render financial help to the concern. The Board was only required to select the most competent out of the several applicants for the managing agency. It, however, went beyond the terms of its reference, discussed the merits of the scheme and recommended that the Government should not take shares in the business.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, was Dr. Kunjan Pillai a member of the Board at that time?

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DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Yes, I was. But the recommendation was the collective opinion of the Board and not my individual opinion. This recommendation was not accepted by the Government, because they could not go back upon a promise they had already given. But another recommendation made by the Board, namely, that, if in future the Company were to raise the share capital, a certain proportion of the new shares should be reserved for Travancoreans, has been accepted by the Government.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: The Government made the undertaking after the Board was constituted.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: The date of the G. O. constituting the Board is 20th June, 1921. The first meeting of the Board was convened on the 30th July, 1921. The conference relating to the Sugar Scheme was held in the Huzur Office on the 14th March, 1921, *i. e.*, before the creation of the Board. The *Press Communiquè* on the subject was issued on the 19th July, 1921, *i. e.*, 11 days previous to the first meeting of the Board, as stated already.

In regard to the Kallar Hydro-Electric Scheme, I do not want to say much. There are only two points on which the Board has made recommendations of any material importance, namely, the payment to be made by the Madras Government for the water and the share which our Government are entitled to get in the profits of the Company. It is not yet time to say that these recommendations have not been accepted, for the matter is still under correspondence and has not yet reached the final stage. We can certainly rely upon our Government making further negotiations with the Madras Government and with the Company and settling the two points on terms as favourable to us as is possible.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I point out that there was a statement in the *Press Communiquè* regarding the Kallar Scheme that the recommendation in regard to the payment for water per unit was not acceptable to Government? Now Dr. Kunjan Pillai says that it is still under correspondence.

PRESIDENT: The matter has not yet been finally settled.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: It is open to the Government to change their opinion and try to secure more favourable terms. All that I say is that the matter has not yet reached the final stage. Regarding the payment for electricity, all points considered, it is admitted that a share in the profits is more advantageous.

PRESIDENT: We need not discuss the merits of that matter.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: No, Sir, I am not going to do that. I wish to point out, however, that the Company has made certain material alterations in its original proposal regarding the proportion of the profits to be allotted to the Government, after the Board sent up its recommendations. The Company was first prepared to give us only one-third of the excess profits after paying 7 per cent. to debenture holders and

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

10 per cent. to shareholders out of the gross profits. Now this has been altered and the company has agreed to pay us according to a graduated scale by which we will get more than what we would otherwise have got. I think that the Board can claim credit for bringing about this substantial alteration in one of the vital conditions put forward by the Company. Sir, from what I have said, it is clear that the charge against the Government that they have not accepted the recommendations of the Board is untenable and that the charge against the Board that it has not done any useful work is unjustifiable. The Board has been in existence for only about a year, and during this short period, the work turned out, in spite of initial difficulties and shortcomings, will not be declared by an impartial critic as unsatisfactory. Such Boards exist elsewhere also. Almost all the Provinces in British India and Indian States like Mysore and Baroda have their non-official bodies to advise Government on questions of economic development. The creation of this Board is the first attempt of our Government to associate the public with the working of the Development Departments. If the Council still thinks that the Board has not done any useful work, it may be because the *personnel* is bad and not because the institution itself is bad. In that case, I may say that the present members will go out in another year and that the Government may then confer upon this very Council the right of electing members to the Board when it may be possible for some of my friends on the other side to get into the Board and direct its activities along lines which they consider useful.

Sir, at a time when everywhere the people are clamouring for a voice in the administration of the country and for a share in shaping the policy and activities of Government departments, it will certainly be considered by the outside world as a retrograde step, if this Council puts its foot down upon the Development Board which has been created for the specific purpose of associating the public with the Development Departments and with all schemes of material advancement. I would request the members to take this aspect of the question into their serious consideration. It is their duty to mend the institution if it is found defective, but surely they should not try to end it by strangling it in the cradle.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: I strongly oppose Mr. Raman Pillai's motion. My reasons for doing so are that Dr. Kunjan Pillai has given us a statement—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I rise to a point of order. The member is not in his place. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*assuming his own seat*): Dr. Kunjan Pillai has given us a clear idea as to the functions of the Board. We are crying out, from house-tops, from the Legislative Council Hall, and from the platform and the press for the development of industries and agriculture. But this motion really means knocking the bottom out of our attempts to develop industry and agriculture.

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Now the argument advanced by Mr. Raman Pillai seems to be a double-edged one. He said that the Board was not doing useful work, and that some of the members on it were incompetent for the place. At the same time, he brings forward the argument that the recommendations of the Board against the Kallar Scheme and the proposed Sugar Factory have not been accepted by the Government. To condemn the constitution of the Board, and in the same breath to support its recommendations, appear paradoxical. In regard to the Kallar Scheme, it is not the Government, but this very Council, that vetoed the Board's recommendations.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: The recommendations of the Board are not before this Council for discussion.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Hoogewerf is in order.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: The resolutions of the Board were before the Council, and it was this Council that decided the question. It may not be quite out of place to point out in this connection that large quantities of jaggery are going out of Aramboly. I do not see why we should not make the best use of it for the manufacture of sugar. To return, this Council itself may make a number of suggestions, but it does not follow that all of them should be accepted by the Government. These are days of democracy, and the Board itself may be said to be, in a way, a small democratic institution. The arguments brought forward by my friend are not convincing, and these are my reasons for opposing his motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, with respect to the motion that has been brought forward by Mr. Raman Pillai, I suspend my opinion for the time being. But, with respect to the argument that has been advanced by my friend, I wish to narrate an old historical incident. A Sultan of one of the States into which the Bhamini Kingdom disintegrated once fell ill. Various physicians were called in to treat him and some of them tried their medical skill on him, but to no purpose. The Sultan ordered that the unsuccessful physicians should be put to death. Other physicians, therefore, took to their heels; and ultimately, the Sultan is said to have died unattended by any medical man. The argument that has been now put forward is that, because the Development Board made two suggestions and because both of them were unacceptable to Government, the Development Board may itself be done away with. That argument is not entitled to succeed. If there is any further argument why it should not be allowed to continue, I shall certainly be glad to agree; but not otherwise.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: It is certainly not my idea or the idea of the non-official members of this House to strangle the Board.

PRESIDENT: Let me inform the House that there are only 10 minutes more for the expiry of the time-limit for this Demand.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Mr Raman Pillai has already spoken on the subject in detail. But, all the same, I wish to point out one or two salient facts for the consideration of the Government.

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[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

In the first place, I should think that the constitution of the Board leaves very much to be desired. The nominations to the Board are hardly satisfactory. There are now, on the Board, at least two members who have absolutely no stake or interest in Travancore. Perhaps they are put in as members of the Board, for the reason that they are managing agents of some company or other. They may well be co-opted at particular sessions of the Board, when questions relating to the interests they represent are considered. But it is of paramount importance that our interests more than those of foreigners should be better safeguarded in the Development Departments.

In the second place, the announcement of Dr. Kunjan Pillai that the constitution of the Board hereafter is going to be on some electoral basis must give great satisfaction to this House. I should think it desirable that, so far as these Development Departments are concerned, we should have a greater insight into their working. A Standing Committee of the members of this House elected by the House may be constituted as an advisory board in regard to these departments as a whole. Of course, if expert opinion is required in respect of particular matters, it may be had from members co-opted at particular meetings.

With regard to the other points urged by Dr. Kunjan Pillai, one is not convinced of the soundness of his arguments. It was pointed out by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai that it was unfortunate that the considered recommendations of this Board were not given any weight to by the Government. It is not at all strange to me that Dr. Kunjan Pillai does not deem this to be a serious matter, because, even according to him, the Board of Agriculture in British India does not very often carry weight with the British Government. At any rate, I should not think that it is a very desirable state of affairs. It is really very pitiable that the recommendations of a Board constituted of responsible gentlemen to go into questions very carefully—recommendations arrived at after careful consideration—are not very often accepted by the Government. Such a state of affairs should not be repeated here and the constitution of the Board should be such as to command considerable respect.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: Sir, probably I am the only member on this side of the House who has been a member of the Development Board from its very inception. From my experience of the proceedings of the Board, I may say that most of the members have been very conscientious in the discharge of their duties and in the discussions of important subjects. They have been always conscious of the great responsibility that devolves upon them and it has been always noticeable how the members have tried to conserve the best interests of the country before they arrive at a particular decision. The minutes of the deliberations of the Board with regard to the Kallar Scheme are before the Council and the country. The way in which the Board approached that question in all its aspects may be taken as a sample of the

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manner in which the Board have approached all the other subjects that have engaged their attention.

With regard to the investment of public funds in the Sugar Company, I also, in common with other members of the Board, felt rather sore that Government disregarded the emphatic and unanimous recommendation of the Board. All of us felt that, in the light of the bitter experienee that we had in connection with the investment of public funds in schemes like the Punalur Paper Mills and the Peermade Ropeway Company, Government should not invest any money in the Sugar Company, especially at the present time. But, if something had to be done, we preferred that the investment should be in the shape of a loan to the Company. Dr. Kunjan Pillai is perfectly right in saying that Government is not bound to accept the recommendations of this Board. For the matter of that, even the resolutions of this Council the Government are not bound to accept; they are merely recommendations. About this Sugar Scheme the Board passed a unanimous resolution and submitted it to Government. Of course, the members of the Board did not relish the fact that Government did not find their way to accept it. But I do not think that it is sufficient justification, as Mr. Narayana Pillai has pointed out, for doing away with the Board. While sympathising with my friends in the disappointment felt by them about this aspect of the question, I, surely, shall not be justified in supporting the motion for putting an end to the Economic Development Board, because some of the most important pieces of advice tendered by the Board to the Government were not accepted.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. I shall not be tempted to go into the merits of the Kallar Scheme or the Travancore Sugar Scheme, because it appears to me that they are absolutely foreign to the discussion before the House. The proposal before the House is to get rid of a department that has been recently organised,—the Economic Development Board. The grounds urged for the abolition of the department are that its recommendations regarding the Kallar Scheme and the Travancore Sugars, Ltd., were not accepted by Government. I take it that all will agree that the ultimate responsibility for all administrative measures must rest with Government. The Chief Engineer, the Darbar Physician and the Director of Agriculture are expert advisers of Government. In many instances, Government do not act upon their recommendations. Would that be an argument for abolishing the offices of these expert advisers? Not infrequently does the High Court upset the decisions of subordinate courts. Does any one seriously pretend that that will justify the abolition of these latter courts? The technical aspects of a question are alone ordinarily dealt with by the expert adviser. Government have to take other factors into consideration before final orders are passed. If it is contended that the constitution of the Development Board is unsatisfactory and constructive suggestions are made for altering its constitution, I have no doubt that the proposal will receive the careful consideration of the Government. I am glad to learn from Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai that the Economic Development Board is not sought

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[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

to be got rid of on the grounds set forth at the outset. He attempted to show that there is scope for a change in the constitution of that Board and the methods of its working. That is a matter of detail which the House need not go into at present. I oppose the motion.

PRESIDENT: The time allotted for the Demand has expired. Mr. Raman Pillai, do you wish to press your motion to a division?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: My object was simply to discuss the subject. I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

***Motion* 162.**

The following motion fell through both for want of time and on account of its being identical with the previous motion:

*Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:*

*162. To omit the allotment of Rs. 12,500 for the Economic Development Board.*

***Motion* 163.**

PRESIDENT: The time allotted for the Demand having expired, there is one motion—Motion 163—which lapses.

The following motion therefore lapsed:

*Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI:*

*163. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,500 for the Economic Development Board by Rs. 10.*

PRESIDENT: I put to the vote of the House the motion that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 53 lakh under Demand XXI—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments (the Public Library, the Archæological Department, the Preservation of Oriental Literature, Establishment under the Glanders and Farcy Regulation, the Public Lecture Committee, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Controller of Patents and Designs and the Economic Development Board.)

The motion was carried and the grant made.

**Demand XXII.—Public Works Department.**

MR. R. EVERARD: Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 25·13 lakhs under Demand XXII—Public Works Department.

***Motion* 164.**

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

164. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,91,640 for buildings (original works) by Rs. 20,000, by not constructing the stamp manufactory in 1098. (Item 25—page 4 of appendix B. of the budget estimate.)

I should consider that the construction of a stamp manufactory at Trivandrum, for which this sum is intended, can well afford to wait for another year at any rate. Even in the matter of construction

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